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Dear Dr Lederberg,

Many thanks for the reprints and the MS of your paper on protoplasts of E. coli. I shall be happy to exchange reprints as you suggest.

I was greatly interested in the penicillin method since I have long thought that it has something to do with cell wall metabolism - e.g. see enclosed reprint on effect of penicillin on electrophoretic mobility. It is indeed useful to have a method for making coli protoplasts - I suppose they are strictly protoplasts, i.e. have lost their cell walls. I think it useful to define protoplasts in terms of cell minus cell wall, don't you? A definition in terms of a change to a spherical form which is osmotically sensitive seems to be inadequate and inconsistent with current botanical usage. I hope you will agree with this. I mention this because a number of papers are appearing in which the term 'protoplasts' is used in various senses. It might be useful to get some joint statement on a definition as happened with inducible enzymes.

I enclose what reprints remain and will send future ones.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth McQuillen

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P.S. You ref BBA 17 465 refers to a paper
by S. H. & me, Biochem & Biophys 473.